

Bruns Family

1970 SEP 17 8.43

PAUL H. BRUNS
7437 Keystone Lane, 202
Forestville, Maryland, 20028
September 15, 1970

ans + sent
refs from
city directories
telephone
books +

American Telephone & Telegraph Company
663 Ohio Street
Terre Haute, Indiana

consists of
TH 1880

Gentlemen: Subject: Old telephone directory listings of
JOHN E. BRUNS, and or BRUNS POWDER
COMPANY, of Terre Haute

1st ward
South of
Poplar

The subject named above, John E. Bruns, was my father, who was a prominent resident and business merchant in Terre Haute, for many years, as nearly as I can recall, from about 1893 until 1905. He resided with my mother, Nora Bruns in your city during those years, during most of which he was the owner and proprietor of BRUNS POWDER COMPANY, dealer in powder, fuses, caps, dynamite and general blasting supplies.

I and my elder brother, John, Jr., were both born in Terre Haute, he in 1896, and I in 1900. About 1904-5 my father moved the family to Santa Ana, Orange County, California, on account of my mother's poor health. My father died in California April 9, 1929, my mother November 9, 1934.

My half sister, who resided at 1201 Poplar Street, Terre Haute, for some years prior to her death on February 16, 1949, was a widow at the time of her demise, but I think had one or more children; one named Marie Swope, I believe. Perhaps the same people still live at that address; (Mrs.) Sena Kettwig was my half sister's name. I have had correspondence with Marie Swope as recently as 1963, from Paris, France, where she was a member of the U.S. Armed Forces in some capacity or other, but I have lost track of her since that time.

If your company has on hand, or if you can direct me to another office of the Telephone Company, where there does in fact exist, one or more telephone directories as far back as the time when my father was in business there, or if you can furnish me with any information or facts relative to the other persons I have mentioned in this letter, I shall appreciate it very much. I will be happy to get the data, and to pay for you charges for sending me xerox or other copies of the pages showing the listings I am interested in. My father was a very active man in society and business and politics, the latter in a minor way, so I am positive that if telephones were available at that time in the area where the home and or the business was located, he would have never been without their benefits.

I look forward with eager anticipation to your reply; the facts are to be used in a family history that I am preparing. Thank you in advance for your courtesy; postage attached below for your reply.

Sincerely yours,

Paul H. Bruns
PAUL H. BRUNS

Postage for reply:

PAUL H. BRUNS
7437 Keystone Lane, 202
Forestville, Maryland
20028
August 24, 1970

Public Library
Terre Haute
Indiana

Gentlemen: Ref: History of Vigo County and/or of
Terre Haute

My father and mother, Mr. and Mrs. John E. Bruns, were long ago and for many years, residents of Terre Haute; my brother John, Jr., and I were both born there. The family left Terre about June, 1905, I believe it was, for California, excepting that my father stayed on and commuted for several years between Santa Ana, California, and his retail business in Terre Haute.

My father, operating under the name : BRUNS POWDER COMPANY was in business at the same address - on downtown street, the name of which I do not now recall; he also maintained one or two powder houses on the River for the storage of dynamite, blasting powder, fuses, caps, etc., during those years. Mr. Walter Duenweg was his bookkeeper and later bought him out.

For your kind indulgence, let me explain that I am compiling a family history and geneology, and it for this purpose that I am very desirous of obtaining references of books that may be in your library on the history of Terre Haute, or Vigo County that contain anything about my parents, their lives and activities.

If indeed, there are such data, would you advise me to that effect and at the same time, also advise the cost of making for me such xerox (or other type copies) of the title pages, library numbers and relevant data, then I will ask you to prepare same, and will remit your charges at once.

Thank you in advance for your kindness and courtesy in this matter. Postage is attached for your reply.

Very truly yours,


PAUL H. BRUNS

Mrs. Dorothy Clark
c/o Vigo County Historical Museum
1411 South 6th Street
Terre Haute, Indiana, 47802

In the course of endeavoring to acquire some data and information relative to the history of my family while residents of Terre Haute, Mrs. Hazel W. Hackwith, Clerk of the Vigo County Health Department, Vital Statistics, 120 South 7th Street, Terre Haute, to whom I had applied for a record of the death of my half-sister (Mrs.) Sena Kettwig, and the record of marriage of the above named subjects, who were my father and mother, kindly referred me to you for historical data. She was not able to give me anything as to the marriage of my parents, neither was the State of Indiana because it took place before 1958; hence I conclude they were not married in Vigo County.

I believe my father and mother were married about 1892-93, because they celebrated their honeymoon at the World's Columbian Exposition, in Chicago, which was held May- Oct., 1893. I believe they then began living in Terre Haute, as husband and wife, and so continued until they moved to Santa Ana, California (Orange County), in 1905. My elder brother, John, Jr., was born in Terre Haute, June 23 or 24, 1896; I was born there December 24, 1900. My mother was born in Zionsville, Indiana, October 13, 1869 or 1870; she died in California November 9, 1934. Her mother and father were Henry Taylor Smith, born in Indiana (there is some indication it was in Kentucky), date unknown; and (Mrs.) Harriet Tansell Smith, born in Indiana, place and date unknown (I previously believed that it had been Kentucky).

**REFERENCE
DO NOT CIRCULATE**

Vigo County Public Library

children - my brother and myself - excluding my half-sister, as she was already about 39 years of age - and my mother, about 1905. In connection with moving to California, my father sold half of the business, which he had conducted under the name: BRUNS POWDER COMPANY for many years, to his then bookkeeper, whose name was, I think, Mr. Walter Duenweg. After another couple of years of commuting back and forth to California, my father sold the remaining half of the business also to Mr. Duenweg, and moved completely to California. Another name keeps popping up in my mind: Mr. Ed (?) Leveque. This man might have been the partner, and Mr. Duenweg my father's lawyer, or vice versa.

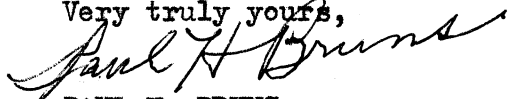
My father died in Santa Ana, California, April 9, 1929; you will readily see that he was 55 years old when I was born, hence the things he told me about his boyhood and early life are and always have been rather hazy.

I am very interested in ascertaining whether in your museum there are books, records or other historical data concerning my father and or mother, and any of the affairs of the BRUNS POWDER COMPANY. Incidentally, he was a prominent member of either the W.O.W. or of the I.O.O.F. while living in Terre Haute.

It would be very much appreciated if you would make a preliminary search for me into the above matters, then advise me if you have anything bearing on the various situations I am interested in, and also advise your charges for furnishing me with xerox or other type copies of the data.

Thank you in advance for your courtesy. Postage is attached for your reply.

Very truly yours,



PAUL H. BRUNS

Postage attached: